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THE MUSKET

LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

September 2005 Volume 6; Issue 1

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Katrina Dashes College Plans

By Ben Carter

While other college freshmen spent early September searching for their classes, LHS graduate Bobbie Beyer was busy searching for a clean pair of clothes. Perhaps if Beyer had known Hurricane Katrina's destructive nature ahead of time, she would have packed her bag a little bit tighter for the impending evacuation.

But disaster couldn't have seemed farther away when Tulane called an emergency meeting for all freshman orientation attendees on Saturday, August 27th; the Louisiana skies were cloudless and Katrina was a gulf's-span away. For Tulane University, a New Orleans school that requires storm escape plans to be provided at registration, hurricanes are hardly unprecedented and warnings are little cause of concern. By 1 PM that Saturday, Beyer, with her family, only two pairs of clothes, a bottle of shampoo, and a laptop computer, had begun the 350-mile evacuation trek to Houston in a rented minivan.

En route to Houston, Beyer was diverted to I-55 on a detour passage that took her to Jackson, MI before she arrived at her intended destination 16 hours later. The next day, Southwest Airlines hesitantly rescheduled the Beyers' flight to depart from Houston instead of New Orleans. With Katrina closer than ever, massive delays plagued Houston's intercontinental airport, but Beyer was at least assured that she would not miss her connector flight in Chicago, since that too was still pavement-bound behind her on the runway.

> "It's one of those things that happens to other people; it doesn't happen to you."
> --Bobbie Beyer

Out of the 1800 freshman at Tulane, 1400 were able to provide their own transportation out of the city, while the residual 400 were bussed north to Jackson, MI. When Katrina made landfall on early Monday, everybody associated with Tulane University was safely out of harm's

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An LHS alum, Bobbie Beyer's freshman year at Tulane has been indefinitely postponed due to the destruction caused by hurricane Katrina.

Parker Pre-Trial Causes Stir

By Emily Moss

On Tuesday, Sept 6, crowds gathered on the battle green in Lexington Center to voice their support for David Parker or the Lexington School System as Parker entered his pre-trial.

Protesters armed with signs and slogans crowded on church steps and the green itself. Minor traffic jams were created by the crowds.

Last April, Parker was arrested for trespassing after a meeting with Estabrook principal Joni Jay. Parker objected to a picture book sent home with his young son that depicted a same-sex couple. The trial is set for September 21.

In the meantime, Parker is banned from school property without express permission from the superintendent. Parker is currently seeking to overturn the ban.

Supporters of both David Parker and the Lexington School System gather for a rally on opposite sides of Mass. Ave in Lexington Center.

New Year, New Musket

Last June, amidst the chaos of finals, graduation, and general end of the year festivities, we at The Musket were looking towards September. In preparation for the following year we drafted a survey, and sent it around to a variety of homerooms. With over 300 responses, we finally understand (or at least we think we do, correct us if were wrong) what students want to see in the paper.

Our first goal for this year is to make The Musket more interactive. We are interested in your opinions. We want to know when we're right, wrong, boring or humorous. To serve that purpose, we set up a "Musket Mailbox" in the library, in which anything can be deposited. Cartoons, letters, opinions, reprimands, requests, compliments or questions are welcome. If printing something out is too much trouble, e-mail it to us at TheMusket@yahoo.com.

Another interactive addition to The Musket is the new advice column, called Dear Minutemaid. Ask anything you want and we'll see what we can do to help (within reason, of course).

Although sports and movies were the topics of choice in our surveys, we were surprised by how many of you wanted to know about politics and social issues. We think these things are important too, so we've added a "What's Hot or Not" section that weighs in on issues inside and outside the walls of LHS. Our editorials this year will also branch out (see this issue's "Why She's Angry").

We are very excited about this school year (although not so much the early morning part) and we hope you are too. But to make this work the way a high school paper should, we need your help. We know you have opinions, so feel free to share them.

Editors-in-Chief,
Emily Moss and Christiana Kim

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FEATURES

Sasha Wilson

Doppelgangers, currently at the Flick, is an original film created by an LHS alumni.

Doppelgangers: Mocking Suburbia

By Sasha Wilson

This summer, the Lexington Flick was host to a unique cinematic event, an original feature-length film written and directed by Raky Sastri, an LHS alumni. The film, called Doppelgangers, begins with the flame of a flickering candle and the sound of crashing waves. From the opening sequence, this "contemporary fable" is anything but a conventional parody of suburbia.

The tale follows a young girl named Harriet (Faryl Millet) who lives on the island of orphans and cripples. Separated from civilization by a vast ocean and a perpetual darkness, Harriet lives with her friends Luke and Frederick (played by recent LHS alums Ian Michaels and Billy Chew.)

Harriet, the clichéd teen searching for something more, attempts to contact the outside world by sending messages in bottles into the sea. She is guarded and secretive and keeps her doppelganger, her metaphorical other half, locked inside of a trunk in her room. In her mission to grow up, she joins a member of "the resistance" who sells photographs, played by Jonah Metroupolis. Harriet needs to discover that things are not always what they seem before her metamorphosis from confused and lonely child to adult can occur.

This film boasts a blend of both serious filmmaking and comedy. Josh Arnoudse as the guitar-playing mime and Chew serve as comic relief. Arnoudse's physical comedy adds an element of the ridiculous to this tale, perhaps serving as an allegory to explain that this suburban way of life is absurd.

Sastri illustrated the different reactions to suburbia well, using Chew's character as an all-talk, no-action type who whines about the demise of the world but never puts his complaints into deeds. Michaels plays one who accepts suburbia and finds Millet's anger towards it initially confusing. Sastri illustrates those, the member of the resistance, who wants to fight suburbia but have no idea what to fight.

Overall, this film bears a chilling similarity with many suburban lifestyles. Whether the viewer interprets it as a warning against isolation or simply a film that holds "a mirror up to nature," it rings a bell. In the end, Doppelgangers is brilliant tribute to its native Lexingtonian cast and crew.

Catching Up

Amanda Palmer

Amanda Palmer, former LHS loner, is a lot more popular these days. As singer and pianist for cabaret-inspired punk duo The Dresden Dolls, the accolades just keep piling up. Named "Best Band in Boston" by Boston magazine and "Boston's Hottest Act" by Rolling Stone magazine, the duo are on their way to shaking up the music world. Amanda chatted with us about her high school experience and life after LHS.

Q. What kind of student were you in high school?

A. I was a recluse but I did do a lot of stuff in the drama department. Freshman and sophomore years were the hardest but once I found my rhthym, I was ok. I actually got stellar grades, which may surprise some people. I ate my lunches alone in the music practice rooms or went to hang out with the teachers that I loved.

Q. What do you wish you had known in high school that you know now?

A. College isn't necessarily better. I have been saddened and amused to find out that a lot of people back at LHS really liked and respected me, but were afraid to approach me because they assumed I wanted to be left alone. That wasn't true, I was just insecure and afraid of rejection so probably came off as arrogant.

Q. What would you say to kids that want to be musicians when they grow up?

A. Play music all the time and don't expect anything to happen unless you work your ass off.

Q. How did your experience at LHS affect your music?

A. It was very formative. Being exposed to jazz through Mr. Leonard's improv class definitely affected the way I heard and played music. I was a lazy slacker and never learned to play very well, but I made up for my lack of chops creatively. All of the things that I was exposed to by my great academic teachers (like Dr. Fiveash, Madame Girondel, Peg Dyro and Sam Kafrissen) ended up influencing my art and work. Not so much influenced by the actual material I studied, but by the way they taught, the way they listened and taught me how to think critically and challenge ordinary viewpoints and cultural norms.The actual stuff in the books was secondary. But most of all, I am forever indebted to Steve Bogart, who pried our minds wide open to the beauty of workshop acting and atypical sorts of theater.

Minutemaid Advice Column: Boys and Boredom

Dear Minutemaid,

I just got involved with a great new guy, and for the first time in a while, I'm genuinely happy. Unfortunately, my family hates my new boyfriend. They think he isn't good enough for me, and I could do much better. I do not have the heart to tell him that my family thinks this way about him. I want to please my family, but I really care about my boyfriend. What should I do?

A: It's really great that you are happy with your boyfriend. However, think about the reasons why your family doesn't like him. If it is because they simply don't appreciate his astounding ability to burp the alphabet backwards, tell them that you really like the guy and something like that doesn't matter. On the other hand, if they know something you don't, such as they saw him kissing someone else in the Center, confront your boyfriend about it. Keep in mind, your family probably only wants what is best for you.

Dear Minutemaid,

There is absolutely nothing to do in Lexington. I can only hang out in the Center so many times! Give me some ideas! Places to go and things to see! And please, nothing too expensive!

A: There are all sorts of things to do in Lexington. There are some really great fields, Lincoln and Center Field for example. Grab a Frisbee and some friends for a fun afternoon. If you like walking or jogging the bike path or the walking paths around Lincoln field are great! The Lexington Flick has unique movies and really decent prices; every Wednesday tickets are only $5.50! If you're really desperate for a good time, there is always "Paint-a-Plate," where you can <gasp> paint a plate, or even a cup or unicorn shaped box.

If you would like to send a letter to the resident Minutemaid, please send an email to themusket@yahoo.com or drop us a line in our mailbox at the entrance to the Library.

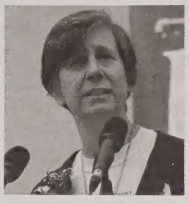
EDITORIALS

Cindy Sheehan's Protest: Why She's So Angry

By Josiah Reibstein

Eric Jackson, a publisher of World Ahead, recently accused Cindy Sheehan of endangering US soldiers with her "antics" while the Conservative Voice simply thinks she wants media attention. It is still perplexing to me, even after Sheehan has been called an exploiter of her son's death, a threat to freedom, and most recently, "the wicked witch of the ditch," that so many people still insist that she's going through all this just to gain camera time. How someone could suspect the worst in Sheehan while at the same time be so optimistic about President Bush's "plans" in Iraq seems illogical to me. "What's eating Cindy Sheehan?" Tim Russert asked in a report. I don't think it takes a lot of mental power to deduce the answer.

Sheehan's son Casey, killed in Iraq at age twenty-four, was part of a team sent there specifically to investigate the presence of WMDs - a superfluous search, since so far the only evidence that's are two vans that been contain weapons. removal Hussein procla- President Thanks- "Mission plished," turned up empty could have used to biological Despite the of Saddam and a smug mation by Bush one giving of accom- the deaths in Iraq are still mounting after three years. Maybe Sheehan wouldn't be so steamed if President Bush didn't possess such an uncanny talent for repeating phrases and an inability to admit mistakes. While soldiers die day after day, Bush still insists on staying the course, but he's never actually told us what he attempts to accomplish by this. Although many have suggested to Sheehan that her demand to retract the troops immediately is unrealistic, the fact remains that Bush has not presented us with an exit strategy, nor has he confirmed that he has one.



Cindy Sheehan gives a press statement.

Besides, Bush has other things on his mind. His mountain biking along the outlines of his ranch have been occupying most of his time. Sure, he's met with the families of dead soldiers, but the majority of these parents have been Republicans themselves, and avid supporters of the war who justify their children's deaths by insisting that they were sacrificed for a noble cause.

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What's Hot and What's Not

HOT

Kanye West: His new album defies the negative stereotypes (most of them, anyway) associated with most rappers and takes the music to its true heart: poetry.

Entourage: Four friends, one plot, and innumerable laughs make this HBO half-hour fly by.

The Shins: The Garden State soundtrack was the most beloved CD of most students last winter. The favorite artists on the CD, the Shins, and their 2001 album "Oh, Inverted World" still have the stage.

Kimball Farms Ice Cream: Why enjoy your favorite summer treat anywhere else when this scenic roadside stand offers you four times as much ice cream for the same price as a "micro" at Rancs?

NOT

Intelligent Design: If evolution is only a theory, then that makes intelligent design… fiction? The rate at which this nonsense is spreading reminds me of a bad horror movie.

Last Days: Gus Van Sant may have hit a home run with "Elephant," but his attempt to portray Kurt Cobain's death in these pretentious, yawn-inducing two hours makes me want to go watch "Wedding Crashers" for a third time.

The New SAT: No one thought that this grueling rite of passage could be any more unpleasant. The four hour exam (at 8:00 in the morning) now contains an essay, harder math, more obscure vocabulary, and more grammar. There is no other way to have more fun.

President Bush: His plummeting approval ratings signal that the nation is finally realizing how incompetent a leader George W. really is.

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Intelligent Design Does Not Belong in Science Class

By Rachel Kase

While the United States has gone through conservative phases in the past, the era of staunch traditionalism that our country is entering today is more severe and illogical than any before. The extent of the country's current conservatism is best illustrated by the Americans' waning belief in evolution. With "intelligent design," a theory whose supporters believe life could only be the deliberate work of an intelligent being, creationists have brought an 86-year-old dilemma back to the front page of every newspaper. While after the 1925 Scopes ("Monkey") Trial only two states preserved laws banning the teaching of Darwin's theory, today, eight decades of scientific research later, only one in ten Americans believe that life developed without any divine assistance. The uninformed and relentless religious fanatics in America have put both intellectuals and evolution on the defensive.

While it had never occurred to me that there was a possibility that humans did not evolve from shorter, harrier beings with long names beginning with "homo-," many of the nation's children do not share my confidence. Turn on the news any day and you will be horrified to see students and teachers proclaim with unadulterated fervor that they believe evolution is a "philosophy." While Lexington is relatively unaffected by the notions of red state conservatives, evolution has become a red tape issue in many parts of the country. Some schools have eliminated Darwin's theories completely from their curriculums, and others will

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ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Casting "Lumos" on Harry Potter

By Kelly Siegel

There was a rush to the bookstores earlier this summer pending the release of Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince, JK Rowling's highly anticipated sixth installment to her series. Unlike the majority of Potter readers, I was not able to read the book when it first came out; I was in China and thus had to await my return to an English- speaking country, or at least a part of the country that had heard of her record-breaking books.

Finally, in August, I was on my way home. I was on a plane next to my friend Josie, discussing the probability that certain characters would be the one to die. It had been reported, as with the fifth book, that we were to lose a main character. She argued that it would be Dumbledore, leaving Harry alone and unprotected in the seventh and final book, and thus setting the scene for a final show-down between Harry and Voldemort.

I maintained that of course this couldn't be the case [Warning: If you are so out of touch with the world as to not know the ending of Half Blood Prince, read no further. Secrets will be revealed.] Rowling would never leave millions of fans so heartbroken. Sadly, Josie turned out to be right.

With spring came Harry's annual meeting with his nemesis, and it appeared that Dumbledore's time had come. After the death of the beloved headmaster, many readers were left feeling as empty and lost for direction as Harry himself. Such an admired character was the only safeguard we had against everything going horribly wrong.

The book was, of course, a phenomenal success. As usual, Rowling produced an exciting novel that kept readers turning pages until the very end. The depth of the magical world she has created in her stories never ceases to amaze, and she presents a fabulous landscape within Hogwarts and the rest of the wizarding world that instantly captures the imaginations of her readers. The book, however, was not without flaws. One could easily become bored with Harry's shallow character and obsessive hatred of Malfoy. Yes, he was right in suspecting him, so what else is new? I would have been much more interested if a plot twist had popped up and Harry had been wrong all along, but Rowling seems unable to ever let him err. Her need to keep Harry as a perfect hero means that his character is generally underdeveloped, and his lack of flaws makes for an uninteresting protagonist. There is no surprise, no real suspense to grab our attention and make us question what we are fed. The real truth of the story is given away in the second chapter. This does not a 607 page novel make.

Rowling's attempts at romance also fall short, with the sub-plots of Harry's relationship with Ginny and the tension between Ron and Hermione seeming at times forced and at others too much like an adult's perception of what teenagers are like.

Very few 17 year olds are as immature about relationships as Rowling's are. Ron reacts to having a crush on his friend by freaking out and running in completely the opposite direction. Hermione's shyness also seems starkly out of character for such a strong willed individual. Even the way we hear Harry's thoughts about Ginny seems unrealistic. All this description of a monster in his stomach seems like an adult's sugar-coated telling of teenage attraction.

While I will openly admit that I enjoy Rowling's books, and will eagerly await the release of the seventh along with the rest of the world, I question what we love. These books are not literature, and it pains me to believe that they will be passed on to future generations as some of the "great books of our time" when clearly they are not. They are simply children's books that have wildly succeeded because they create a magical world the likes of which we haven't seen since Tolkien hit print.

This Summer's Films Deliver the Good, the Bad, and the Mediocre

By Andrew Gerzon

Comedy

The 40 Year-Old Virgin

Steve Carell inspects his handiwork in 40 Year-Old Virgin.

Going into "The 40 Year-Old Virgin," most critics expected another dumb comedy filled with potty humor and sex jokes. Many critics weren't wrong. However, in the case of this comedy, an originally funny plot provided a great backdrop and the perfect accompaniment for said humor.

Writers Steve Carell (The hilarious Brick of Anchorman fame) and director Judd Apatow created a working relationship between plot and humor. Some might find the humor offensive, but well, they probably shouldn't have gone to a movie called "The 40 Year-Old Virgin." As the title implies, the story is of a 40-year-old virgin named Andy (Steve Carell) whose work buddies decide to help him "solve" his "problem." The whole cast is extremely funny, with especially good performances by Steve Carell and Paul Rudd.

Sci-Fi Adventure

Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith

After two sub-par "Star Wars" prequels, "Revenge of the Sith" is better in every aspect and almost satisfying. The major problem with the Episodes I and II was that they were trying to please an audience of children, which resulted in unbelievable corniness (read: Jar Jar). "Revenge of the Sith" gets down to business and exposes us to the death and darkness which was implied in the original trilogy.

George Lucas, being George Lucas, packs the film with special effects. Half way through the movie, you start to think, "We get it, George Lucas. You're good at CGI." For a film that has an explosion approximately every two minutes, it isn't completely empty. It's entertaining, suspenseful and dark. Despite its excessive effects and wooden dialogue, "Revenge of the Sith" will make most fans very happy.

Adventure

War of the Worlds

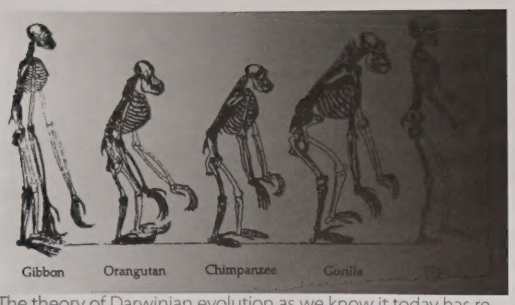
The beginning of "War of the Worlds" is promising. You're introduced to a group of characters as they're thrust into a life-or-death situation. Enormous tripods emerge from a city street and start vaporizing indiscriminately. Of course, our hero, Tom Cruise, survives and escapes from the destruction. As he and his two children navigate a treacherous new landscape, you are sure there's no way they could survive. Then there is a sequence where Tom Cruise, accompanied by his children, almost gets killed but they survive. Then there is another sequence where they almost get killed but they survive. Then there is another sequence. Then another. And another. It's repetitive and quickly the suspense is lost. At the end of the movie, a weak, lame explanation is given and everyone lives happily ever after. Except everyone that died. Clearly, the strength of this movie lies more in Cruise's and Spielberg's names and less in the quality of the script.

Drama

Broken Flowers

Bill Murray watches television forlornly in Broken Flowers.

Director Jim Jarmusch's latest film, "Broken Flowers," has been compared to Sofia Coppola's "Lost in Translation," primarily because of Bill Murray's character wallowing in depression. The main character, Don Johnston, (Bill Murray) is a middle-aged man who is jaded and passive. He spends his days sitting on the couch watching television until he receives a letter from an anonymous ex-girlfriend that says he has a 19-year-old son who is looking for him. Don thinks it's a joke until his enthusiastic neighbor Winston (Jeffrey Wright), who is an online detective, plans a road trip for him so he can find the writer of the letter. We learn more about him and his past by witnessing brief encounters with his ex-girlfriends. By the closing credits, we're not sure whether he really has a son at all or if the letter was a joke the whole time.



The theory of Darwinian evolution as we know it today has recently come under fire from supporters of intelligent design.

Intelligent Design · From Page 3

only use textbooks that label the evolution chapters with "this is a theory not a fact."

The fact of the matter is that opposing ideas to evolution are neither based in science nor based in fact. Moreover, claims such as "paintings have painters, buildings have builders... humans must have creators," are irrelevant in the face of scientific data, such as the revelation of DNA genomes. It should be obvious that recent scientific findings are a more credible source of information on this topic than the creationists' source of information: a book written over two millennia ago. Therein lies the problem: the majority of the population, including the president, has faith in flawed theories.

The United States' refusal to recognize the validity of science is appalling and dangerous. If Christians in America (over 80% of the population) do not think that the steady changes in bone structure between extinct humans and modern man are not enough evidence to qualify evolution as a "fact," then literally anything could be disqualified as truth for lack of enough qualifications to satisfy Christian Americans. The result is that the United States will be left in the dark ages without any absolutes but God. Keep God in the church and out of the classroom and telling fact from fiction will be instantly clearer.

Boys and Girls Cross Country have XCellent Potential

By Kevin Slane

As the summer winds down, students across Lexington begin to accept the inevitable truth: school really is coming back, and there's nothing that can be done to stop it.

School in September is one of the few things that can always be counted on, like the sun rising, the rain falling, and the cross country team winning another league title.

The Lexington boys and girls cross country teams have dominated over the last four years, compiling an amazing run of league titles. Not only have the boys cross country runners won the league title every year, they have actually not lost a match in four years.

The girls XC has performed just as formidably, winning the league title every year in recent memory, and losing very few meets in the process.

This year, the boys will be led by senior captains Rob Bleakley, Ari Weiser, and Andrew Bowen, while the girls will be captained by Erin Kelly, Laura Sofen, and Kate Sullivan.

Although both teams did lose some key seniors from last year, both teams fully expect to continue their phenomenal success. Regarding the girls' prospects this year, Kelly reported that "we have been working out a lot this off-season, and I think that we're looking at a very deep and talented team this fall."

Here's to hoping that the boys and girls cross country will live up to their potential, and bring home their respective league titles.

Cindy Sheehan Protest · From Page 3

Not long ago, the White House website boasted a picture of Bush hugging Tammy Pruitt, whose husband and five sons have served in Iraq, although none of them have died. "America lives in freedom because of families like the Pruitts," Bush said in a later speech. Cue applause. Like a child, Bush has no real knowledge of the pain of losing a loved one. After all, his twin daughters are safe and sound partying it up while our soldiers fight. Having gone AWOL during Vietnam, Bush himself has never even fought.

> "...The propriety of the nation must be startled; the hypocrisy of the nation must be exposed; and its crimes against God and man must be proclaimed and denounced."
> -Frederick Douglass

Frederick Douglass once said, "We need the storm, the whirlwind, and the earthquake. The feeling of the nation must be quickened; the conscience of the nation must be roused; the propriety of the nation must be startled; the hypocrisy of the nation must be exposed; and its crimes against God and man must be proclaimed and denounced." Those who believe Sheehan is simply a media hound are free to harbor their own suppositions. But there are those who still view her in a positive light, as a passionate anti-war activist inspired by Casey's death to expose what Douglass called "crimes against man and God," and what her supporters recognize as the crimes against her own son.

NEWS

Senate Update

- Discussions began on a bill that would eliminate community service as a graduation requirement.
- AIM and the Gay-Straight Alliance both earned seats as "not represented groups" in the Senate.
- A resolution was passed stating the Senate's opposition to the U.S. Armed Forces' policy of discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation.
- Senate meets every Wednesday at X-block in the Library Media Classroom. All are welcome to attend.

Principal's Plans for the Upcoming Academic Year

By Devaki Raj

- A rewritten mission statemen. The current statement begins: "Lexington High school provides and supports a curriculum in which all students can develop the competencies needed for life in the modern world."
- A revamping of the National Honors Society (NHS) so that it is more orderly and systematic.
- To draft constitutional definitions of school values such as student academic and social expectations.
- The introduction of a barbeque for incoming freshman intended for students from Diamond and Clarke to mingle and get to know one another in a relaxed and friendly setting before school starts.
- Thirty additional teachers, psychologists, and social workers will be joining the staff.
- The introduction of First Class, an on-line program which allows students to access the classroom and their peers through the Internet.

Katrina Dashes Freshman Plans · From Page 1

way. However, following a power outage, the freshmen located in Jackson had to be moved to Atlanta and Dallas, and several of Beyer's friends who had sought asylum in Pensacola, FL found themselves stranded on top of a hill-turned-island.

Even the most ill informed visitor to New Orleans would realize the disastrous potential of a hurricane on the bowl-like city. Beyer took notice of the levee system upon her initial arrival in the city. On Monday, August 29th, this levee system would fail under Katrina's storm surge, inundating the coastal city with an unremitting flow of water. This flood of biblical proportions only desisted once the water level on the streets was equal to that of the surroundings aquatic bodies: Lake Pontchartrain, the Mississippi River, and the Gulf of Mexico.

Beyer remains hopeful that her third-story dorm was high enough to remain dry during the flooding and low enough to have avoided the brunt of Katrina's 145 miles per hour winds. However, Beyer realizes that her and her classmates' material concerns are paled in the face of a New Orleans death toll that is already in the thousands.

The destruction left in the wake of hurricane Katrina has become an all-too-common sight.

As for now, Beyer's options are fairly limited. A myriad of state schools, including UMass, have opened their doors to students of hurricane-ravaged schools. But for Beyer, a student who is deeply invested in New Orleans' Cajun and Creole culture and her double major in French and international relations, the alternative isn't too attractive. "I'm so ready for college. I'm so ready to be there right now," a somewhat dismayed Beyer asserted. The only option Beyer shows any real enthusiasm for at this point is volunteering with the American Red Cross. However, she would most likely be left with a desk job instead of being involved hands-on in the relief effort.

Tulane was initially scheduled to re-open on September 7th, a date that was quickly pushed back to September 23rd, and is now postponed indefinitely. The only part of Tulane that is up and running is its emergency site, http://emergency.tulane.edu. Even the school email is down, forcing students to send vital information to each other via social networking websites such as MySpace or Facebook.

For now, all Bobbie Beyer can do is echo all too common words of disbelief: "It's one of those things that happens to other people; it doesn't happen to you."

Boy's Soccer Primed for Breakout Year

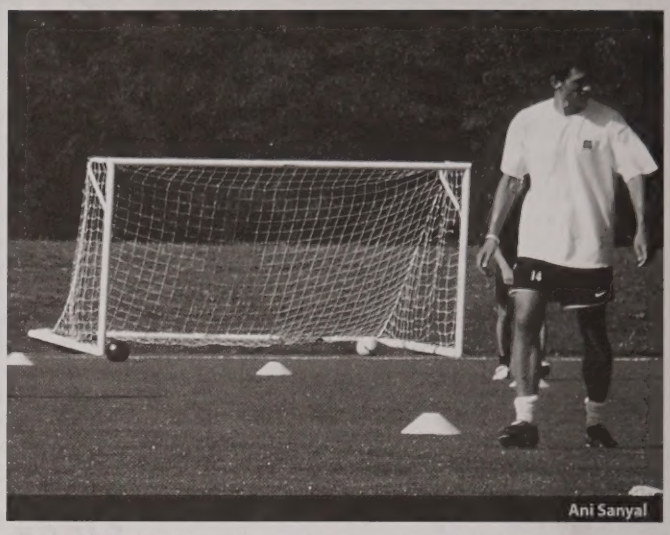
By Kevin Slane

Although football has always dominated the interest of the student body during the fall season, the team's play has slowly declined, thus leaving a void in the fall sports scene that has yet to be filled.

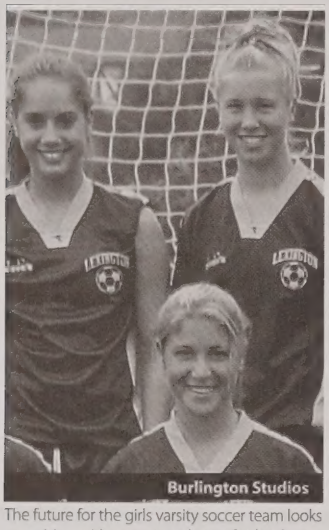
This year, don't be surprised if the boys soccer team boots its way to the forefront of popularity. "We have such a deep team. I've never seen so many talented kids come out for the team," commented one player. Each year, the varsity boys soccer team has quietly won many fans with its stellar play and magnanimous style. This year should be no different, as senior captains Sean Chou, Willi Ballenthin, and Peter Frank lead the charge for the Middlesex League title.

Unlike the football team, which lost some of its best players, the soccer team retained many of the starters and key contributors from last year. Returning players include Ballenthin, Frank, Chou, David Smoot, and Eric Driscoll. New coach Dan Rudolph has been working the boys all summer, making sure that they are ready to compete come fall.

The team had an unusually large number of talented kids try out, and this will most ultimately lead to some very fine players being cut, or being left on the junior varsity squad. All these elements add up to what looks to be a winning season for the team, with very realistic hopes of playoff success.



Captain **Willi Ballenthin** makes sure that all is going well during team practice on Thursday, Spetember 1.



The future for the girls varsity soccer team looks promising with returning players Caitlyn Savoy, Molly Boudreau, and Nina Atkin.

Girl's Soccer Looks Past Last Year's Tensions

By Arjun Gokhale

The Girls soccer team is looking to make the playoffs this year after falling short last year under head coach Keith Wood. The team only lost five players to graduation last year and their experience as well as depth should be their major strengths this year. Possessing a complete team on all sides of the ball, Co-Captains Rochelle Butler, Eliza Duncan and Ceciley Chisolm are placing high expectations upon their team. Said Chisolm, "Having a lot of returning players should make us a better team than last year's, and I think the playoffs are a realistic goal."

Freshman Micaela Cyr is making a serious impression in practice and games with her stellar play and ended up netting a goal during one of the pre-season scrimmages. The girls have faced two teams in the pre-season and are 1-1 under new head coach Frank Pagliucca.

Coach Pagliuca replaced Coach Wood at the beginning of this season after several players complained about Wood's methods. Several parents also complained to the administration about certain coaching decisions, including the distribution of playing time. There is said to be tension among team members stemming from the abrupt manner of the coaching change. Several returning players remain loyal to Coach Wood and resent the intrusion of the parents and the administration, while others welcome the clean slate of a new season with a new coach.

The girls, however, are keeping any remaining problems in-house. No one wants to comment on the effects these tensions might have. Remarked one anonymous team member "There is so much drama about soccer, I just don't feel comfortable talking about it". The Captains do not think that the coaching change will be detrimental to team chemistry. Tension aside, the have a strong group of returning players, a few promising underclassman, and an experienced coach.

Offbeat Athlete of the Month: Amar Hirani

By Arjun Gokhale

Amar Hirani granted me some time to interview him a few weekends ago, and we sat down to talk about break dancing and his Diversity Day performance last year. Most people hadn't heard of the Break Dancing Club before the Diversity Day festivities, where the dancers blew the crowd away.

Q: When did you first start break dancing?

A: I first began break dancing towards the end of 9th grade, but it took me until the middle of 10th grade to really get serious about it.

Q: How did you develop an interest in break dancing?

A: A couple of my friends, John Proper and Alex MacNeil, convinced me to do it. They taught me a few moves that got me really interested in it and I just progressed from there.

Q: When do you practice?

A: The Break Dancing Club meets every day after school in Commons II.

Q: Every day? That seems pretty intense.

A: Yeah it is. You get tired out and break dancing is the kind of thing where you need to have your mind in the mood; you need to get pumped up. If I'm not in the mood it's hard to practice, so I'll take a day off every now and then. You can get frustrated on a bad day pretty quickly or get hurt.

Q: What did presenting in the Diversity Day presentation mean to you?

A: Break dancing is a way of expressing yourself. I felt that by performing on that day, it meant we were showing support for tolerance in LHS and that was an important message that I wanted to relay to everyone. I also knew that for some members of our crew, especially Henoch Spinola, it meant a lot, so it was important for me to support them as well.

Q: Where do you see the club going in the next two years?

A: It'll probably be a tough few years ahead since we lost a lot of senior talent this year. I guess if we recruit a lot and train we can be a good team in the future.

Amar Hirani shows off his considerable breakdancing skills with a flashy move in the Cary Memorial Library.